

SNC Reference Number
(enter if previously assigned)

SNC #080098

PROJECT SUMMARY

County: Yuba

Applicant: Yuba County Resource Conservation District (YCRCD)

Project Title: Yuba River Narrows Habitat Restoration Planning

PROJECT GOAL

The YCRCD seeks to increase the population viability of Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon by assessing habitat limiting factors in a short reach of the Yuba River near Deer Creek and developing a restoration plan that focuses on improving spawning habitat. The Yuba River is a priority stream for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Anadromous Fish Restoration Program (AFRP), and this project will support restoration of a Central Valley river that is crucial to the survival of a threatened species.

PROJECT SCOPE

(Note that a detailed version of the scope of work is included in the "Evaluation Criteria" section of this proposal).

The construction of Englebright Dam on the Yuba River produced a substantial amount of coarse, angular rock material (hereafter referred to as "shot rock"). This anthropogenic material was spoiled onto the slopes above the river, immediately downstream of the dam. During the 1997 New Year's Flood, record high flows over the dam eroded this material and transported it downstream where it was deposited in the river's bed and the adjacent point bar sediments, just opposite the river's confluence with Deer Creek. Based on past assessments, anecdotes, and casual observations this shot rock deposit inhibits spawning of spring-run Chinook salmon in this crucial reach of the Yuba River.

This project will engage local landowners, natural resource managers, and restoration practitioners in a collaborative process that will achieve a technically-sound, scientifically-based restoration plan to improve spring-run Chinook habitat at the project site. YCRCD is pleased to partner with Philip Williams & Associates, Ltd. (PWA), a fluvial geomorphology and river engineering firm with over 30 years of experience in designing and implementing river restoration projects. PWA will work collaboratively with Cramer Fish Sciences (CFS) to evaluate existing habitat and its relation to fluvial processes, and develop a restoration plan that meets the project's goal related to improving spring-run Chinook habitat. The project will be managed and facilitated for YCRCD by Kelly Sackheim, a specialist in environmental regulatory compliance and facilitation, with particular experience related to sand and gravel extraction, regulated rivers and hydroelectric projects. Jeanette Brown, Associate Director of the YCRCD, will continue to lead coordination with the following groups: PG&E, the present site owner and also the facilitator of the Yuba River Technical Working Group (YRTWG); adjacent property owners, who are providing their observations and

records of fish usage at the site, as well as information vital to assessing construction access opportunities to the project site; and natural resource managers, including regulatory agencies, stakeholders such as the South Yuba River Citizen's League, and participants in the YRTWG and Yuba River Accord, particularly the Yuba County Water Agency (YCWA) with its role in managing flows through the project reach.

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Section 14 of this application includes correspondence reflecting support of the efforts proposed by the YCRC. This correspondence includes letters from Steve Schoenberg of USFWS and a member of the YRTWG, Beth Campbell representing the USFWS' AFRP, and Bill Mitchell, consulting fisheries biologist and the YCWA Board, with respect to earlier similar proposals of neighboring landowner Jim Butler. Commentary provided in captions to the photos provided in Section 9 reflect support of the neighboring landowner, Ralph Mullican.

SNC PROJECT DELIVERABLES AND SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE¹
Kickoff Meeting (Previously assembled data and notes from meeting to be distributed to stakeholders, with SNC copied)	March 15, 2009
Draft Existing Conditions Assessment & Restoration Alternative Report (distributed to stakeholders, with SNC copied)	July 31, 2009
Review Meeting (Notes from meeting distributed to stakeholders, with SNC copied)	August 31, 2009 (30 days after draft report distribution)
Final Restoration Plan (distributed to stakeholders, with SNC copied)	45 days after comments back from review meeting

SNC PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Task 1: Kickoff Meeting & Collection/Review of Earlier Data	\$12,700
Task 2: Existing Conditions Assessment	\$60,800
Task 3: Restoration Alternatives Development	\$69,200
Task 4: Review Meeting	\$15,500
Task 5: Final Restoration Plan	\$21,500
Dr. Greg Pasternack (in kind donation of time and already-developed hydraulic model; approximate combined value: \$50,000 to \$80,000)	\$N/A
SNC GRANT TOTAL	\$179,700

¹ Assumes board authorization at the end of December, 2008 and start of project 60 days later, on March 1.